

February 8, 1960

Mr. Philip L. ~~Graham~~
President and Publisher
The Washington Post and Times Herald
1515 L Street, Northwest
Washington 5, D. C.

Dear Mr. Graham:

Last week, your editorial staff added another "misfire" to its growing collection of false charges aimed at J. Edgar Hoover, Director of the FBI. I refer, of course, to the grossly slanted and misleading editorial entitled "Rise or Decline?" which appeared in the February 1, 1960, issue of The Washington Post and Times Herald.

In the face of the undeniable fact that it is sheer folly to attempt to measure the threat of communism in this or any other country in terms of Communist Party membership statistics, I am amazed that your editorial staff would resort to such a dangerous "numbers game." Certainly your apparent zeal to discredit Mr. Hoover and undermine public confidence in the FBI cannot have reached such proportions as to blind you to simple truths such as this!

Balanced against the snickering, lighthearted attitude toward the Communist Party which is evidenced in your editorial are the cold facts: (1) The Communist Party remains the largest subversive organization in the United States today. (2) Never have the Party's reins been in the hands of more strongly pro-Soviet elements--and in this category I include Gus Hall, together with other veteran conspirators who now guide the destiny of their fellow communists. (3) The Party's life blood flows from the international communist movement which now holds nearly one billion of the earth's people in its clutches.

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Mr. Philip L. Graham

To my mind, the question posed by the title of your editorial, "Rise or Decline?", is readily answered in facts such as these.

Sincerely yours,

John P. Mohr
Assistant to the Director